



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Commission on Teacher Credentialing Adopts New Bilingual Program Standards**

SACRAMENTO – At its January 31, 2008 meeting, the Commission on Teacher Credentialing adopted new standards for programs preparing teachers for bilingual instruction. These standards are used to assess whether each bilingual teacher training program in the state is ensuring that a candidate has the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary to do the job of a bilingual teacher in the California public schools. The new standards were developed by the Commission's Bilingual Certification Advisory Work Group, a group of teachers, teacher educators and other experts in bilingual education. A field review and public discussion helped complete the development process.

The Bilingual Program Standards address the changed nature of bilingual education such as the need for candidates to be prepared to teach within the expanded variety of bilingual classroom settings, including immersion programs. In addition, the Bilingual Program Standards require an assessment of each candidate's fluency in both English and the language of authorization. Anyone completing a program according to these standards can apply for a Bilingual Crosscultural Language and Academic Development (BCLAD) authorization for their attendant teaching credential.

The BCLAD authorization allows the holder to provide the following types of instruction:

- Instruction for English Language Development (ELD) which is instruction designed specifically for EL students to develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in English. This type of instruction is also known as *English as a Second Language* (ESL) or *Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages* (TESOL).
- Specially Designed Academic Instruction Delivered in English (SDAIE) which is instruction in a subject area, delivered in English, that is specially designed to provide EL students with access to the curriculum
- Content Instruction Delivered in the Primary Language which means instruction for EL students in a subject area delivered in the students' primary language.

The Commission's mission is to ensure integrity and high quality in the preparation, conduct and professional growth of the educators who serve California's public school students. The Bilingual Program Standards support that mission by ensuring high quality preparation programs that provide California's public school system with educators that have the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to be effective for the students of our state.

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